

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 DHA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
-----036545 221440Z /46

P 221246Z JUL 77

FM AMEMASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7375
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST UNN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IS, US, OVIP (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
SUBJECT: RABIN COMMENTS ON THE BEGIN ISIT

1. IN THE COURSE OF HANDING OVER A LETTER ON JULY 22,
I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK FORMER PRIME MINISTER
RABIN HOW HE ASSESSED THE BEGIN VISIT. OBVIOUSLY READY
FOR THE QUESTION, HE SAID THAT FROM ALL HE HAD BEEN
ABLE TO LEARN IT HAD GONE WELL. A GOOD ATMOSPHERE HAD
BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND BEGIN, AND
IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT BEGIN HAD HANDLED THINGS IN A
PROPER MANNER. FROM WHAT THAT HAD BEEN RELEASED SO FAR IT
WAS CLEAR THAT THE VISIT HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS
ON PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS. AT SOME TIME,
HOWEVER, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO CONFRONT THE SUBSTAN-
TIVE ISSUES ON WHICH ISRAEL AND THE U.S. DO NOT AGREE.
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RABIN SAID THAT HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S.
AND ISRAEL SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS BEFORE
GOING TO GENEVA.

2. YES, HE SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, HE THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET A GENEVA CONFERENCE STARTED
THIS FALL. IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT A SURE THING AT THIS

POINT AND MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE WHICH WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT. IT WAS GOOD, HE NOTED, THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE GOING FIRST TO ARAB CAPITALS THIS TIME. RABIN SAID THAT HE BASED HIS RELATIVE OPTIMISM AS TO THE PROSPECTS OF STARTING GENEVA ON THE FACT THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE LONG BEEN ANXIOUS TO GO THERE. HE DID NOT THINK THAT THIS ASPECT OF THEIR POLICY WOULD CHANGE. FURTHERMORE, HE BELIEVED THAT THE JORDANIANS COULD PROBABLY ALSO BE COUNTED ON TO SHOW UP. ABOUT THE SYRIANS HE WAS LESS CERTAIN; THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST DIFFICULT TO GET TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. ALL IN ALL, HE THOUGHT THE BEGIN VISIT HAD AT LEAST IN SOME MEASURE INCREASED THE PROSPECTS FOR A CONFERENCE OR FOR SOME FORM OF TALKS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL.

3. I ASKED WHAT SCENARIO HE SAW FOR EVENTS HERE AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S RETURN. RABIN SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT BEGIN WOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN ("AS HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM"). HE WOULD THEN REPORT TO THE CABINET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF DID NOT INITIATE A KNESSET DEBATE ON THE BEGIN VISIT, ONE OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES PROBABLY WOULD (FROM THE TENOR OF HIS COMMENTS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT RABIN DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD HAVE AN EASY TIME IN

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ATTACKING BEGIN FOR HIS HANDLING OF THE WASHINGTON VISIT. THEY MIGHT IN FACT HAVE DIFFICULTY LAYING A GLOVE ON HIM.) RABIN EXPLAINED THAT THE CRITICISM OF THE BEGIN PEACE PLAN IN THE KNESSET DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (TEL AVIV 5351) HAD BEEN LARGELY ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS: THE COMMITTEE OBJECTED TO THE FAILURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY TO GIVE IT AN OUTLINE OF THE PLAN HE WAS TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON. THERE WAS ALSO SOME CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT ON SUBSTANCE, PARTICULARLY FOR ITS FAILURE TO USE THE WORD "WITHDRAWAL" IN CONNECTION WITH THE WEST BANK. RABIN POINTED OUT THAT HE HIMSELF DID NOT SPEAK IN THE COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER APPEARED QUITE RELAXED AND ALMOST ANXIOUS TO BE ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF - WITH SOME CAUSE - AS ONE OF THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ISRAELIS WHEN IT COMES TO THE U.S. AND HOW TO DEAL WITH OUR TOP OFFICIALS. WHILE HE IS AS UNHAPPY AS ANY OTHER MEMBER AT THE LABOR PARTY'S FALL FROM POWER, HE HAS CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM ATTACKING PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND HAS NO INDICATION

IN THIS CONVERSATION THAT HE WOULD BE CRITICAL OF THE
LATTER'S HANDLING OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

5. RABIN SAID THAT HE IS NOW LOOKING FOR AN AGENT
TO HANDLE THE BOOK HE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN TO WRITE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV05422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770262-0442
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770727/aaaaawye.tel
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Message ID: 68d8f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1770277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABIN COMMENTS ON THE BEGIN ISIT
TAGS: PBOR, OVIP, PDEV, IS, US, XF, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: STATE AMMAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68d8f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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